

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, ROOM 240, MS 2-13
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1897



April 1, 2004

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE and
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Governor Davis' Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-04 announced the Administration's intent to close Agnews Developmental Center (Agnews) as of July 2005. The Budget also established a stakeholder process, the Bay Area Project, to identify any barriers to community placement and the resources necessary to successfully move current residents of Agnews into the community. Based upon stakeholder input and the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) own analysis, we have determined that a closure date of July 2005, is not in the best interests of Agnews' residents.

The decision to postpone the closure is based on our assessment of the existing capacity of the Bay Area community to provide the range and types of services needed by 2005. It is also based on the recognition that up to 100 Agnews residents would need to be transferred to Lanterman Developmental Center, potentially putting their health and safety at risk and jeopardizing their continuing family contact. In order to promote the development of the community capacity necessary to ensure the health and safety and the success of Agnews' residents in the community, a decision has been made to delay closure of Agnews until July 2006. Therefore, the closure plan developed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4474.1 will be modified and submitted as soon as completed, but no later than April 1, 2005, as statutorily required.

The Department concurs with our stakeholders' recommendations that the following issues must be addressed prior to closure.

- The stability of living arrangements must be assured.
- An appropriate array of service options designed to meet the special needs of Agnews' residents must be available.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

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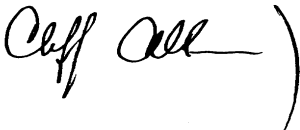
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- Systems must be in place to ensure continuity of services between the institution and the community.
- On-going quality of care must be assured.

To ensure the health, safety, and proper care of residents of Agnews as they transition to less restrictive, more integrated community placements, the State must ensure the essential building blocks are in place, including development of necessary housing, alternative models of service delivery, and appropriate, quality services. These building blocks raise a number of policy and fiscal issues that require further development and consideration. The Department will shortly bring forth specific budget and legislative proposals, as well as a timeline for moving forward.

If you have any questions concerning Agnews, please contact either Ken Buono, Acting Chief Deputy Director, or me at (916) 654-1897.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Allenby", followed by a closing parenthesis symbol ")", all enclosed within a large, thin, hand-drawn oval.

CLIFF ALLENBY
Director